

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 19, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-11 remain pending in this case, with claims 1 and 6 being the independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification stands objected to for reciting "frame sync signal FSx" in line 7 of page 9 as one of the signals triggering channel selection. This recitation is not incorrect, because the channel select signal is generated at the falling edge of the frame sync signal as seen from FIG. 4, and, moreover, the channel selector 212 utilizes the frame sync signal to generate the channel select signal (page 9, lines 14-16).

Nevertheless, for clarity of presentation, the specification has now been amended in manner believed to overcome any basis for objection. Support for this amendment is found in the specification, e.g., page 10, line 19 to page 11, line 3 and in FIG. 3

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,661,946 to Takahashi et al. ("Takahashi").

Claim 1 recites:

a channel selector for generating a channel select signal for identifying said at least one channel of the multiple channels in said system, and . . .

a plurality of mixers for selectively releasing and transmitting said input digital signal modulated by said one of said two different modulation standards and said converted input digital signal to the other one of said two different modulation standards by said codec means in response to said channel select signal.”

Item 4 of the Office Action presumably identifies the “channel select signal” of claim 1 as corresponding to some control signal to the multiplexer 20. It is also presumed that “said input digital signal modulated by said one of said two different modulation standards” is deemed to correspond to encoded data at the multiplexer 20. It is further presumed that “said converted input digital signal to the other one of said two different modulation standards by said codec means” corresponds to the input to the demultiplexer 25 as shown by the rightmost arrow in FIG. 2 and in FIG. 3. It is unclear, however, how “selectively releasing and transmitting” of “said input digital signal modulated by said one of said two different modulation standards and said converted input digital signal to the other one of said two different modulation standards by said codec means” occurs “in response to said channel select signal.”

Moreover, it is unclear in what sense it can properly be said that the “selectively releasing and transmitting” is performed by “mixers.” Item 4 of the Office

Action suggests the Takahashi memories 24, 29 are “mixers for selectively releasing and transmitting said input digital signal modulated by said one of said two different modulation standards and said converted input digital signal to the other one of said two different modulation standards by said codec means in response to said channel select signal.” The applicant can find no support for such a proposition no matter how the Takahashi reference is construed. Accordingly, Takahashi fails to anticipate or render obvious the invention as recited in claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 recites the same above-quoted limitations, and is likewise deemed to be patentable over Takahashi.

As to the other claims, each depends from a base claim and is deemed to be patentable over the cited references at least due to its dependency, although each warrants further consideration based on its additional, individual merits.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in the event of any perceived outstanding issues so that passage of the case to issue can be effected without the need for a further Office Action.

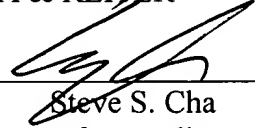
Amendment
Serial No. 09/350,436

Docket No. 5000-1-004.

In the event that any additional fee is required to continue the prosecution of this Application as requested, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,

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